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NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER,
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LONDON CHAPTER
OAS

February, 1988

88-2

Skeletal Research and Travelogue in Egypt's Dakhleh Oasis

Dr. El. Molto
Lakehead University

Our speaker for this month is known to many Chapter members as an active osteologist in Ontario. However, El also likes to do overseas research in exotic areas of the world...an obviously growing trend amongst certain Ontario archeologists. El will highlight the work he has done in Egypt, with special emphasis on the trip he made this past month. See slides of Eygpt, archaeology, and your own Chapter secretary pondering important Chapter matters while basking in the sun. **Please note the special date for our speaker night this month...March 17th (St. Patrick's Day), one week later than usual.** Meeting place and time is the normal 8 PM at the Museum of Indian Archaeology.

NOTE: If there is a Chapter dues envelope attached to your newsletter, you still owe your 1988 fee. Unless payment is made, this is the last issue of KEWA you will receive.

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EXECUTIVE REPORT

As mentioned last month, Chapter Treasurer George Connoy has gone ahead and withdrawn $3,500 out of the Chapter's account, and has placed it into a one-year term deposit at 9 percent interest. This is the Chapter's first, rather modest attempt at using our funds to earn further monies for the Chapter. The Chapter's regular account is still flushed with close to $6,000 dollars, which will pay for some of the cost of producing the several Occasional Publication Series volumes which are planned over the next two to three years. Any further suggestions from the membership about possible uses for our funds, or ways in which we can invest monies in order to make a profit, would be most appreciated. A detailed financial statement for the Chapter will be published in next month's issue of KEWA, along with our annual mailing list.

Chapter member Carl Murphy has agreed to sit as the Chapter's representative at planning meetings regarding Ontario Hydro's proposed Southwestern Ontario Transmission Corridor. Sponsored by Ontario Hydro, this planning group will meet every few months, in Chatham, over the next couple of years to assist in the planning of a Hydro route to go through west Middlesex, west Elgin, Lambton, Kent and Essex counties. On other matters, after a delay of some two years, the London Chapter's 1985 licence report has now been published, and a limited number of these (on the 1985 findings from Oneida Reserve), are now available. While most copies are committed to either the Oneida community, report contributors and other interested agencies, a few copies of the report will be available, free of charge, to Chapter members who express an interest in having a copy. Requests will be accepted by mail only, and will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

A final reminder. For those still owing 1988 dues, the time is now to pay-up. This will be your last issue otherwise, and if you are just being absent-minded, please pay! It is so difficult striking you from the mailing list, only to add you a month or two later! Thanks!

SOCIAL REPORT

A reminder to those interested: our Thursday, April 14th speaker night is intended to be our re-scheduled Member's Night. Anyone interested in giving a presentation on some topic which they'd like to share with the Chapter are more than welcome. Presentation length can be anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes. Please notify the Chapter executive as soon as possible if you are planning to make a presentation.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The enclosed article from Ian Kenyon falls well on the heel's of David Stother's presentation last month. The Liahn site report was originally written in 1977, and includes some of Ian's earliest artifact illustrations! A report which has ben cited continuously since it was drafted, we felt it was time to put it out in print. With the recent advance in Western Basin Late Woodland archaeology, Ian's report is critical to our understanding of prehistoric settlement-subsistence strategies from the lake St. Clair region. Also enclosed for your enjoyment is the latest Thomas Kenyon Nineteenth Century Note, this one on historic moulded pipe bowls. More of these are planned for future issues of KEWA, so keep watching for this popular part of our newsletter.

LATE WOODLAND OCCUPATIONS AT THE LIAHN I SITE, KENT CO.

Ian Kenyon

Liahn I (AcHo-1) is located in East Dover Township, Kent County, Ontario (Figure 1). Liahn is situated on a low sand ridge adjacent to Rankin Creek, which flows into Lake St. Clair 2km west of the site.

Liahn was discovered by Murray Tuck, of nearby Grand Pointe, and later examined in 1975 by Phil Wright (Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation). Excavation was undertaken at Liahn I in 1977 since deep ploughing was believed to be destroying many features. At the same time, Ron Williamson (1978, 1980) excavated at Liahn II (AcHo-2), a Meadowood-related mortuary complex located on a sand knoll adjacent to Liahn I.

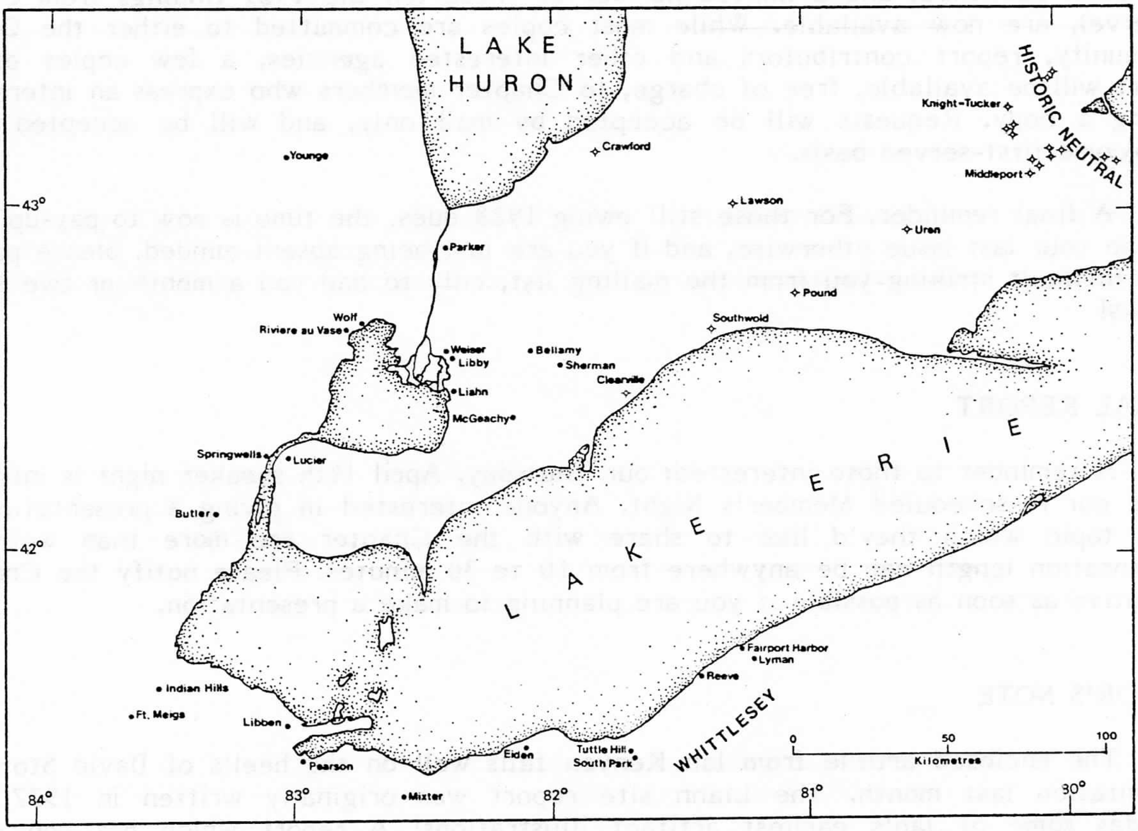


Figure 1: Location of Liahn and Other Sites in the Western Lake Erie Area.

Environmental Setting

Dover Township is within the St. Clair Clay Plain (Chapman and Putnam 1966) -- a flat expanse of land to the south, east and northeast of Lake St. Clair. That part of the plain located immediately east of the lake is termed the "Chatham Flats". A distinctive feature of the Chatham Flats is the thin, discontinuous sand veneer which overlays the clay plain deposits. In the Chatham Flats the sand tends to be located adjacent to major streams, such as Rankin Creek. These sandy outwash deposits are probably a relic of the late glacial period when these streams had a much greater flow than at present. From the air these sand patches have the braided appearance typical of a sandar or glacial outwash plain (Embleton and King 1968). One characteristic of a sandar is the way in which the meltwater streams aggrade their beds. Thus in Dover Township the highest land is found along the three main creeks, where the outwash sand deposits are elevated several meters above the surrounding clay plain. The Liahn site is located on such an outwash sand deposit.

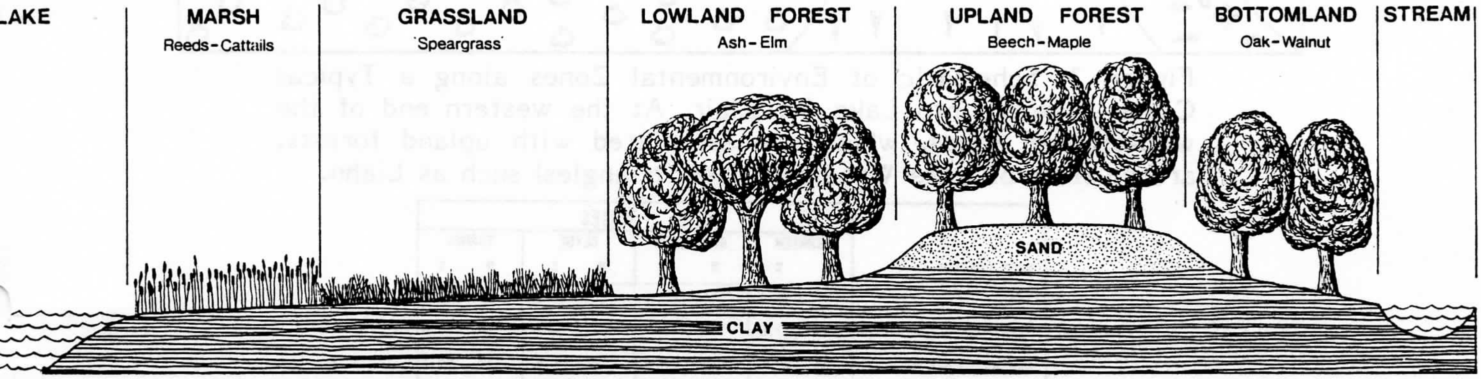


Figure 2: Schematic Cross-Section of Environmenal Zones in the Chatham Flats. Liahn, which is located on a sand ridge, is within 2km of all of these zones.

Today the landscape of Dover Township -- almost entirely denuded of its natural vegetation -- appears flat and monotonous, with corn and bean fields seemingly stretching endlessly. There are now few visual clues to the diverse environment that was recorded by early 19th century land surveyors. From the 1809 survey notes of Thomas Smith it is possible to recontruct the natural vegetation pattern of the Chatham Flats, which ranged from wet grass prairies to upland forest. There was a clear association between vegetation cover and soil types (Table 1).

Grassland. On the most poorly drained clay soils was a wet grass prairie, which was observed by Galinee in 1670 who noted "grandes prairies" on the eastern margin of Lake St. Clair. According to the 1809 land survey notes, these grasslands stretched along the border of the lake, periodically extending eastward in lobes.

Lowland (Ash-Elm) Forest. The better drained clays supported a forest dominated by ash and elm.

Upland (Beech-Maple) Forest. The high, relatively well-drained sands adjacent to streams had forests dominated by beech with lesser amounts of maple.

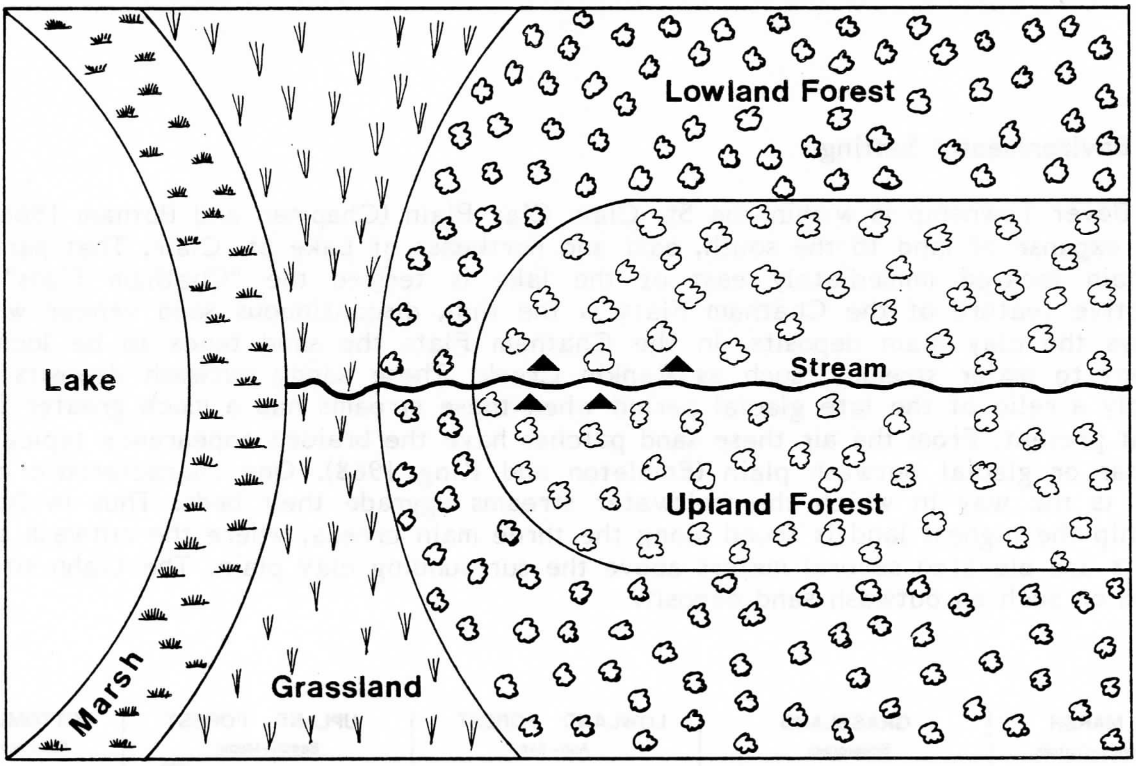


Figure 3: Schematic of Environmental Zones along a Typical Creek Flowing into Lake St. Clair. At the western end of the well-drained sands, which are associated with upland forests, are clusters of Late Woodland sites (triangles) such as Liahn.

	SOIL SERIES							
	BERRIEN		BROOKSTON		CLYDE		THAMES	
TREE SPECIES	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Beech	87	85.3	138	43.3	7	15.9	19	59.4
Sugar Maple and Maple	59	57.8	132	41.4	8	18.2	24	75.0
Ash and Black Ash	62	60.7	239	74.9	38	86.4	18	56.3
Elm	25	24.5	204	63.9	31	70.5	24	75.0
Basswood	36	35.3	134	42.0	12	27.3	21	65.6
Sycamore	11	10.8	31	9.7	3	6.8	3	9.4
Walnut	2	2.0	6	1.9	2	4.5	10	31.3
Hickory	-	-	20	6.3	6	13.6	6	18.8
White Oak	9	8.8	49	15.4	6	13.6	13	40.6
Red Oak	-	-	4	1.3	2	4.6	1	3.1
Soft Maple	-	-	12	3.8	-	-	-	-
Willow	-	-	1	0.3	-	-	-	-
Ironwood	-	-	2	0.6	3	9.1	-	-
Aspen	-	-	-	-	1	2.3	-	-
Poplar	13	12.8	3	0.9	2	4.6	-	-
Spicebush/Spicewood	4	3.9	10	3.1	-	-	-	-
Prickly Ash	4	3.9	6	1.9	-	-	-	-
Black Cherry	1	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackthorn	1	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL # OF "STANDS"	102		319		44		32	

Table 1: Correlation Between Tree Species and Major Soil Series in the Chatham Flats. The tree species data are taken from the 1809 land survey notes for Dover and Chatham Townships; the soil series from the 1936 Soil Map of Kent Co. Berrien soils are sandy with Brookston being imperfectly drained clays and Clyde poorly drained clays. The Thames series are alluvial or bottomland soils.

Bottomland Forest. The alluvial soils of the major stream courses had a forest cover which included basswood, oak, hickory and walnut.

The vegetation of the Chatham Flats was a mosaic (Figure 2), consisting of interdigitating east-west lobes. In the vicinity of the streams -- where the better drained soils are found -- forest elements extended west to about a kilometer of the Lake St. Clair shore (Figure 3). In the low, poorly drained clay soils between the streams, the grasslands extended to the east. Within 2km of the Liahn site all of these diverse land cover elements were present.

Site Structure

At Liahn artifacts are scattered over 1.6ha (Figure 4), but the most intensive occupation area is smaller, about 0.6ha.

At Liahn there appear to be no middens of the type found on Ontario Iroquois sites. A hillside trench (unit B) revealed a sheet wash deposit about 0.5m thick that contained cultural material. This deposit was probably formed by erosional processes during the occupation of the Liahn site. While this trench yielded a considerable quantity of bone, it contained few artifacts.

Most of the 1977 season was spent excavating a longhouse structure (Figure 5) in the central part of the site (unit F), although several test trenches were dug along the eastern and western margins of the site.

The longhouse is 24m long and 7m wide, and has rounded ends. Postmolds average 10cm in depth and 5.5cm in diameter. The small size of the posts may be due to the extreme depth of ploughing on the site. There is a scatter of internal posts but there is no clear evidence of "bunk lines". A series of six posts about 1 meter from the north end may be part of an internal partition.

Pit Features

A complicating factor in the interpretation of the longhouse pattern is the number of large intersecting pits (Figure 6). In the northwestern portion of the excavated area was an amoeba-shaped patch about 7m by 5m that consisted almost entirely of overlapping pits. The only way this mess could be disentangled was to excavate in 1-meter squares and record the unit profiles.

Most features are nearly round in planar view and have symetrical profiles. There are two distinct sizes of pit features (Figure 7): one with diameters clustering between 15 and 30cm and the other at 100 to 150cm.

The large features (Figures 8 & 9) typically have flat bottoms but they vary considerably in depth (from 5 to 60cm); most are probably storage pits, although some were reused as refuse or ash pits. There is a tendency for the wider pits to be deeper and to have more complex fill types. Only the deeper pits have ashy fills or black organic lenses at the bottom. Feature 95a had a basal black lens and a profile suggesting pit wall collapse. Feature 92 contained ashy fill and fire reddened soil; possibly this feature was used as an "earth oven".

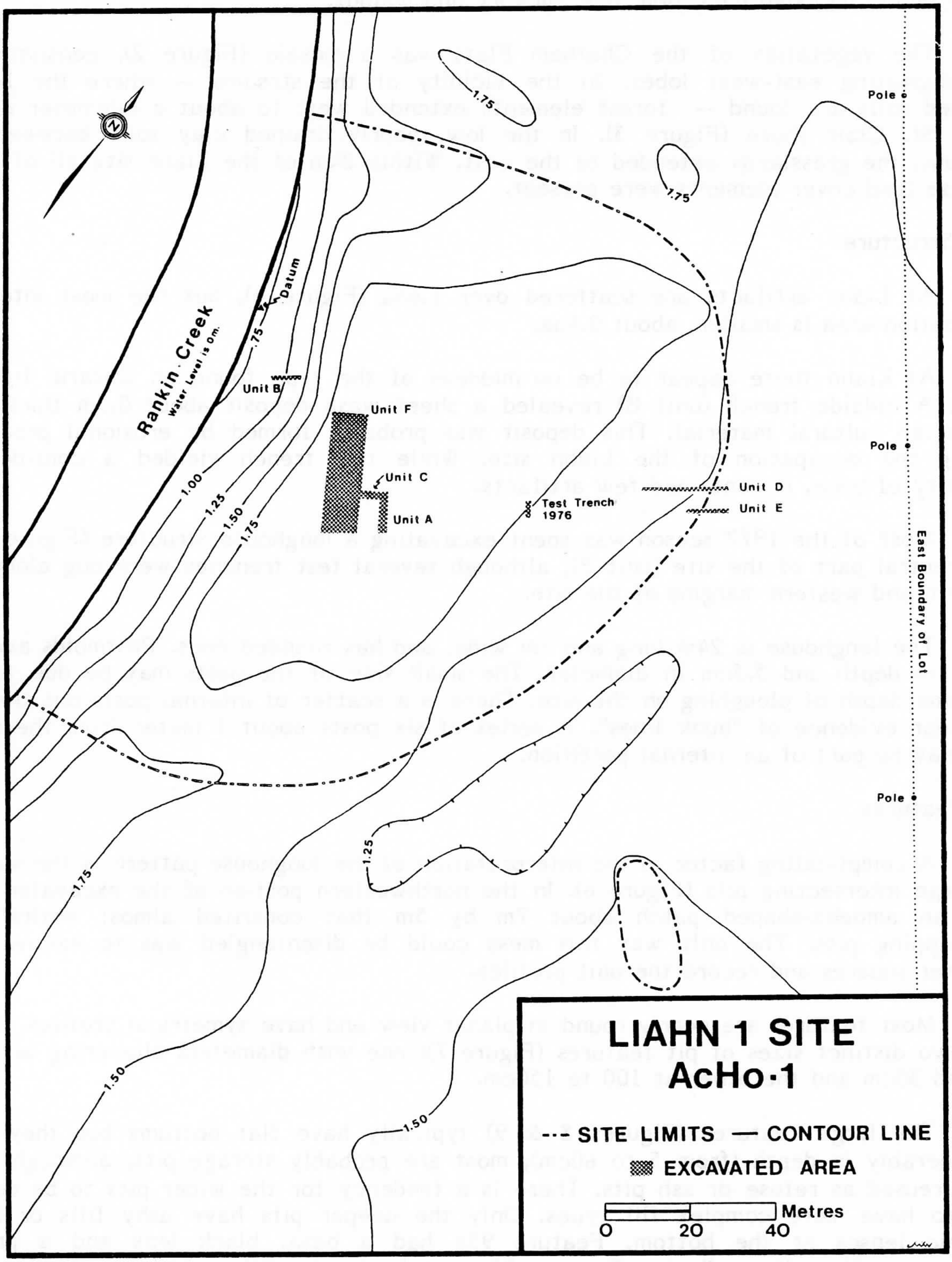


Figure 4: Map of Liahn I (AcHo-1) Site.

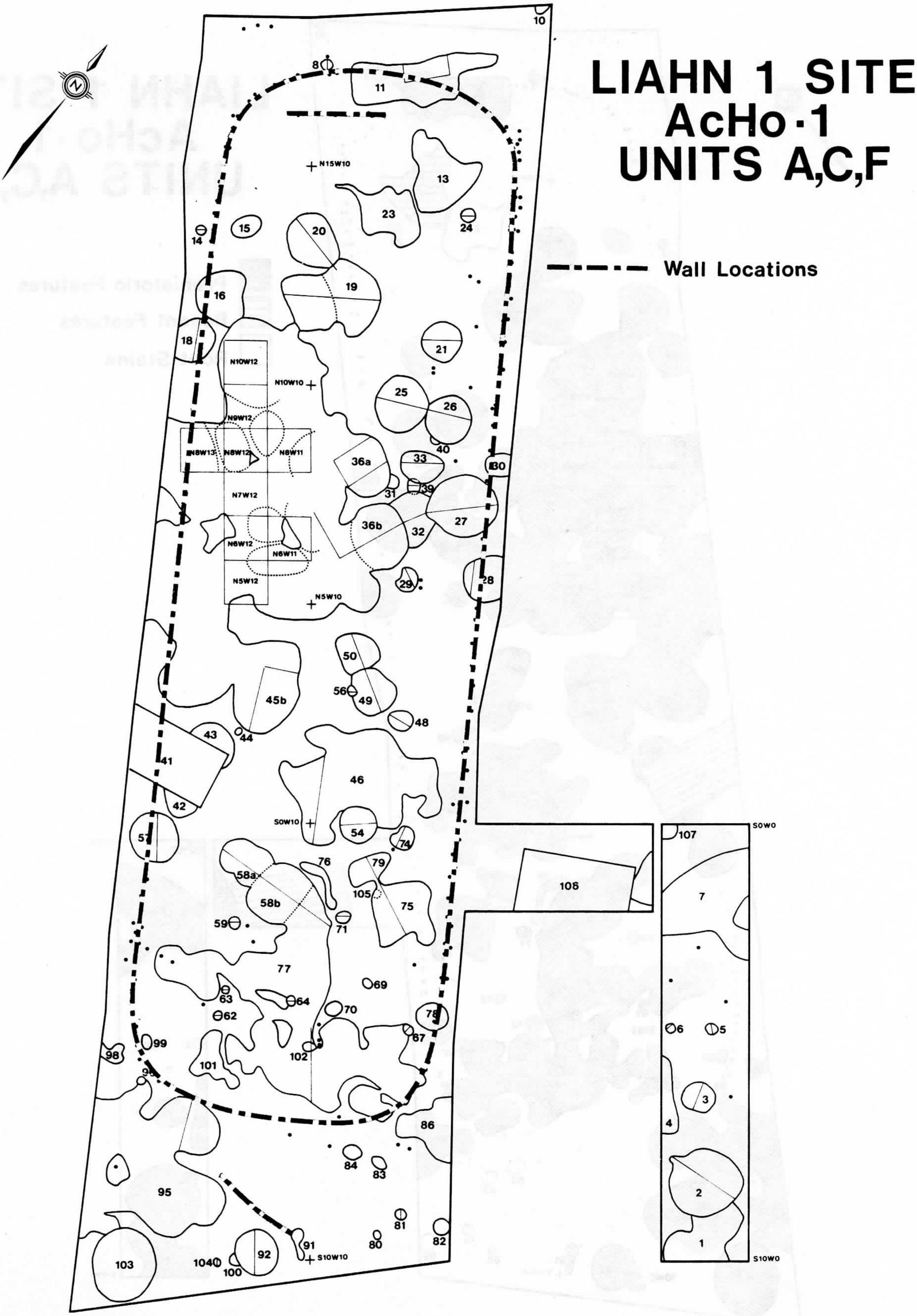
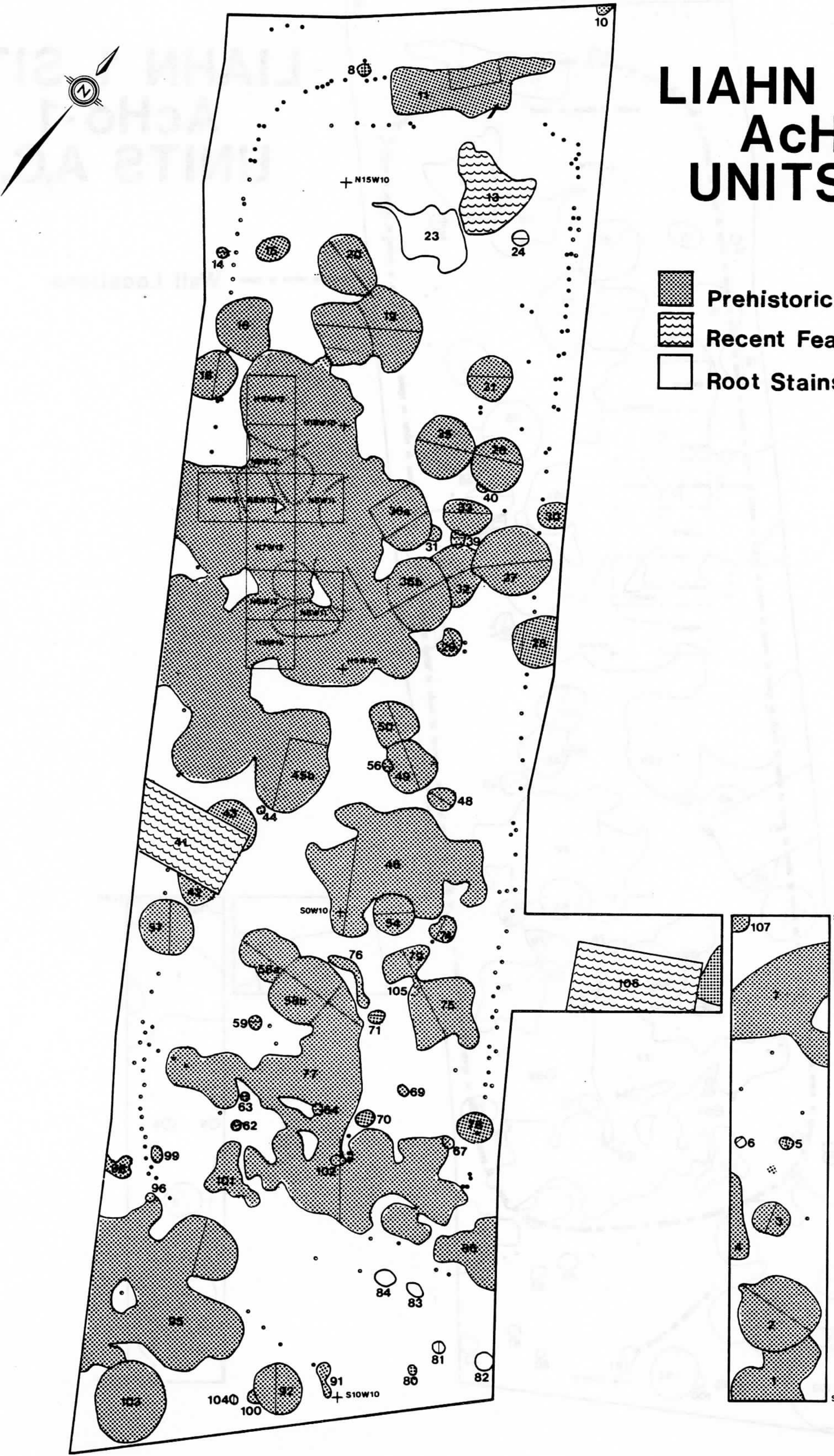


Figure 5: Liahn I Longhouse Structure.

LIAHN 1 SITE
AcHo-1
UNITS A,C,F



▨ Prehistoric Features

≋ Recent Features

☐ Root Stains

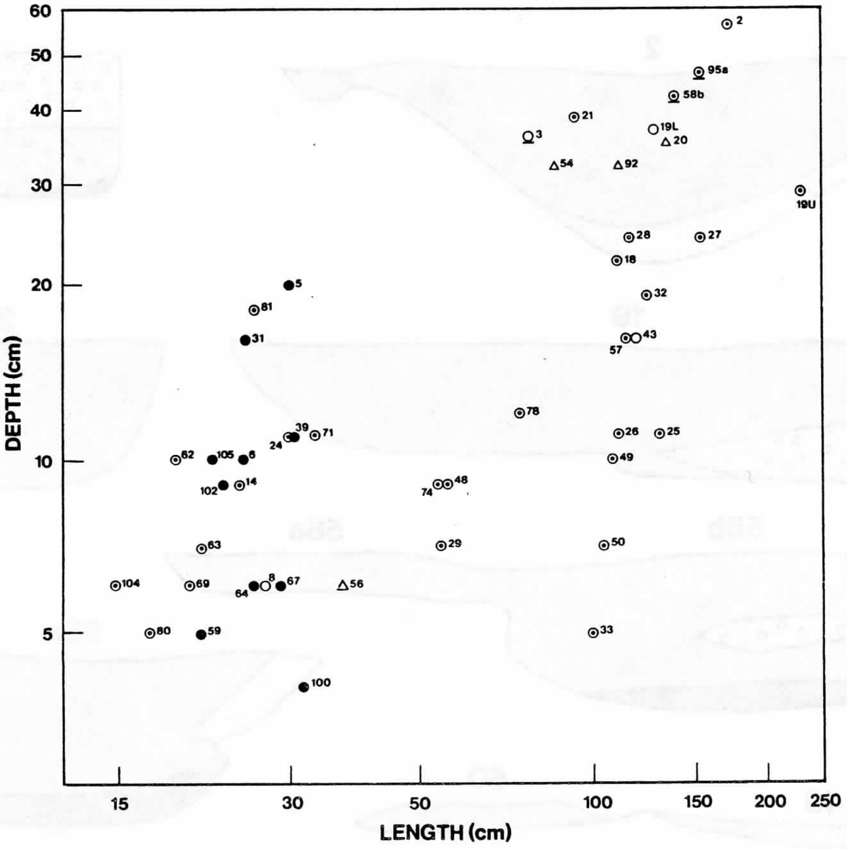


Figure 7: Length and Depth of Features (logarithmic scale).

The smaller features (Figure 9) range from 4 to 20cm in depth and 15 to 33cm in diameter. They have basin-shaped profiles and, unlike the larger pits, contain little refuse. Of the 21 features of this size, 10 have a distinctive black fill consisting of what appears to be carbonized bark. In size and structure these features are similar to the ethnographically recorded smudge pits used for hide smoking (Binford 1967).

There are no hearths, but deep ploughing has probably destroyed any shallow features. Several pits (Features 20, 56 and 54: Figure 9) near the medial axis of the house contain ashy fills and these features may have been adjacent to central hearths.

Radiocarbon Dates

Liahn is a multicomponent site. As will be discussed below, there are a number of lithic projectile points that have an Archaic or Early Woodland affiliation. During the Late Woodland period there are two occupations: the earliest is the Springwells phase of the Younge tradition; the second is a Late Prehistoric period component related to the Ft. Meigs phase of the Maumee River area (Stothers n.d.).

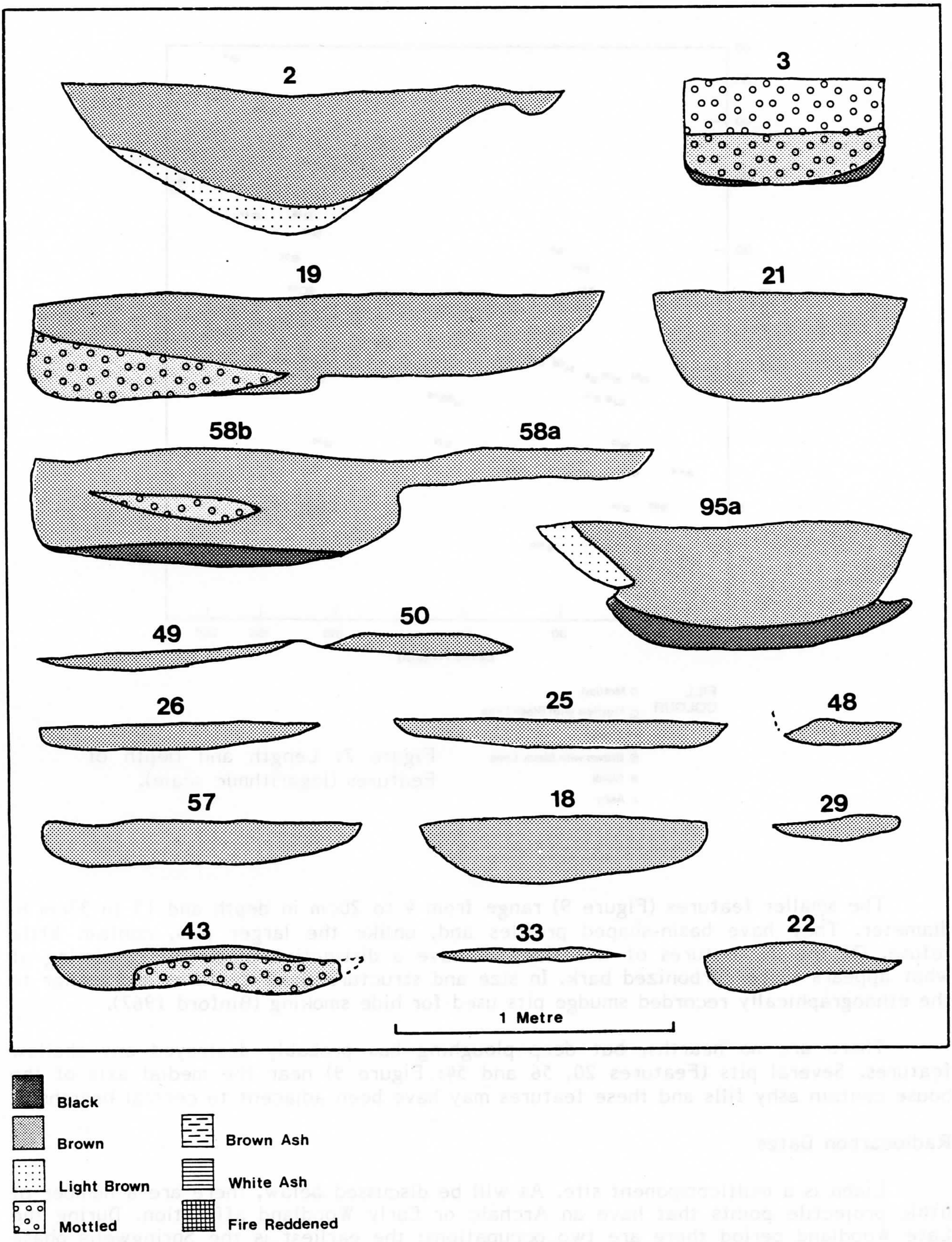


Figure 8: Liahn I Feature Profiles.

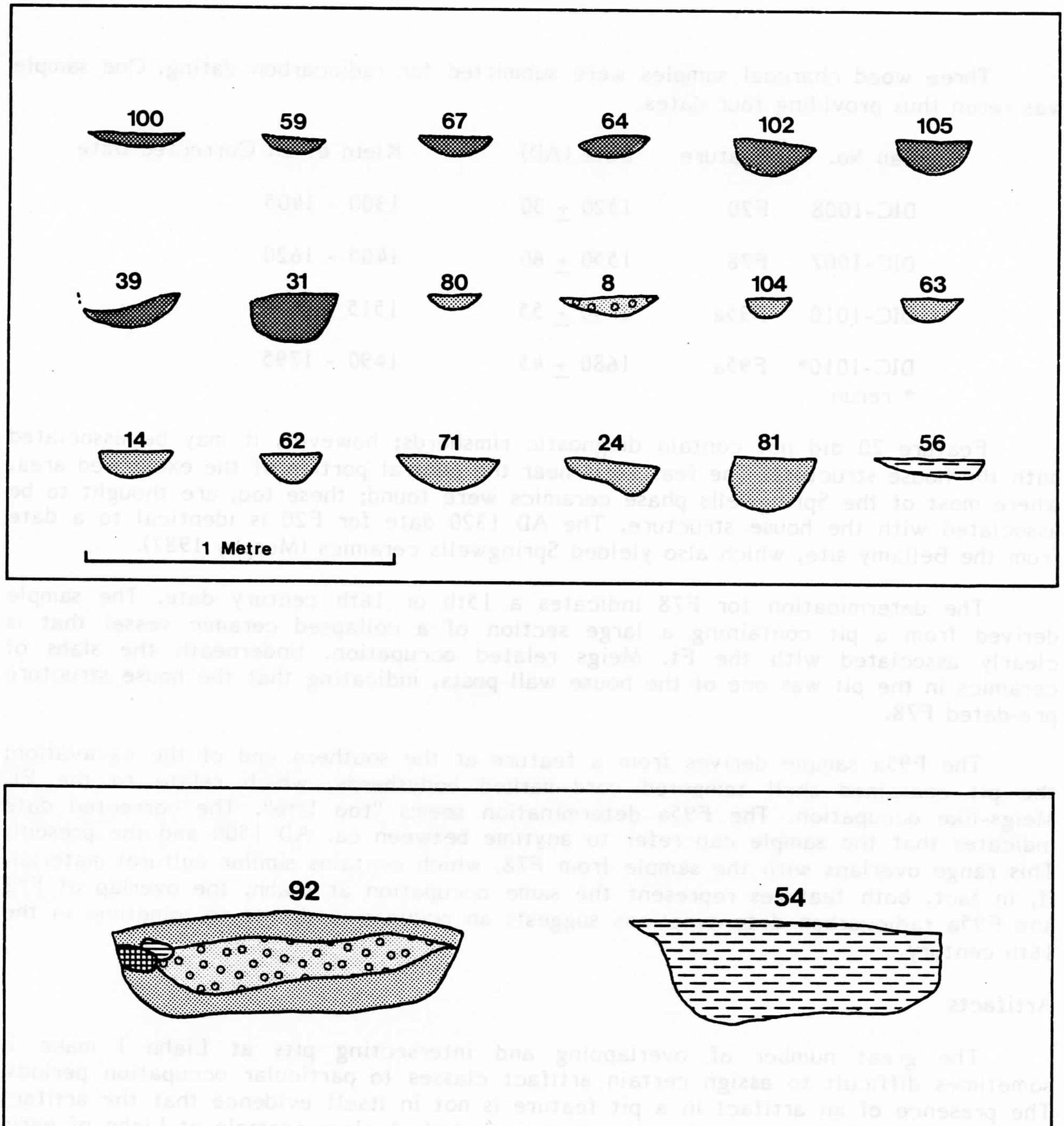


Figure 9: Liahn I Feature Profiles.

Three wood charcoal samples were submitted for radiocarbon dating. One sample was rerun thus providing four dates.

Lab No.	Feature	Date (AD)	Klein et al. Corrected Date
DIC-1008	F20	1320 ± 30	1300 - 1405
DIC-1007	F78	1550 ± 60	1405 - 1620
DIC-1010	F95a	1740 ± 55	1515 - 1950
DIC-1010*	F95a	1680 ± 45	1490 - 1795

* rerun

Feature 20 did not contain diagnostic rimsherds; however, it may be associated with the house structure. The feature is near the central portion of the excavated area, where most of the Springwells phase ceramics were found; these too, are thought to be associated with the house structure. The AD 1320 date for F20 is identical to a date from the Bellamy site, which also yielded Springwells ceramics (Murphy 1987).

The determination for F78 indicates a 15th or 16th century date. The sample derived from a pit containing a large section of a collapsed ceramic vessel that is clearly associated with the Ft. Meigs related occupation. Underneath the slabs of ceramics in the pit was one of the house wall posts, indicating that the house structure pre-dated F78.

The F95a sample derives from a feature at the southern end of the excavation; the pit contained shell tempered cord-marked bodysherds, which relate to the Ft. Meigs-like occupation. The F95a determination seems "too late". The corrected date indicates that the sample can refer to anytime between ca. AD 1500 and the present. This range overlaps with the sample from F78, which contains similar cultural material. If, in fact, both features represent the same occupation at Liahn, the overlap of F78 and F95a radiocarbon determinations suggests an occupation dating to sometime in the 16th century.

Artifacts

The great number of overlapping and intersecting pits at Liahn I make it sometimes difficult to assign certain artifact classes to particular occupation periods. The presence of an artifact in a pit feature is not in itself evidence that the artifact dates to the period of when the pit was constructed. A clear example at Liahn of early artifacts being incorporated into the contents of later pit features occurs with bifacial projectile points. The Late Woodland features yielded more Late Archaic & Early Woodland points than they did the characteristic Late Woodland triangular points.

Chipped Bifaces. Most of the bifacial tools predate the ceramic component at Liahn I. The majority of these bifaces (10) are thin side or corner notched points (Figure 10: 2-4) similar to the Meadowood and Hind types (Spence and Fox 1986). These points are probably associated with the Late Archaic/Early Woodland occupation but no feature attributable to this period was found at Liahn I. In addition there are 6 notched or stemmed points that may date to the Archaic. One of these is a Satchell complex biface: it is a weakly stemmed point flaked from greywacke (Figure 10: 1). Related to the Archaic/Early Woodland points are 3 notched, bifacial scrapers.

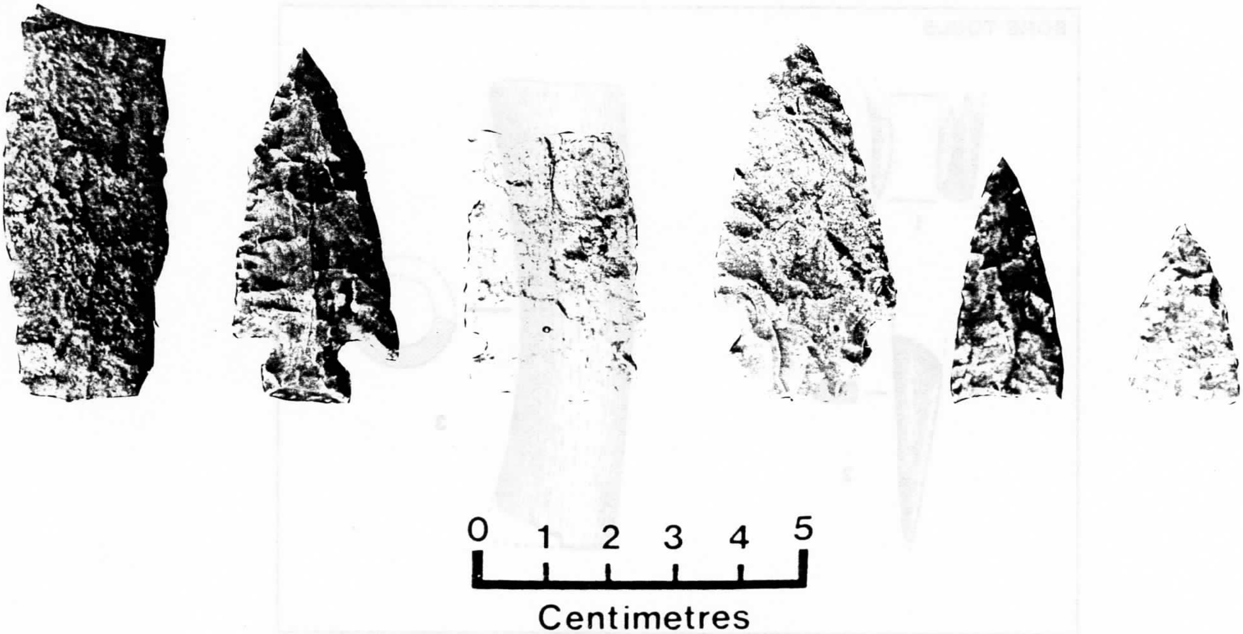


Figure 10: Chipped Stone Points. 1, "Satchell" point, greywacke; 2, Hind point, Onondaga chert; 3, Meadowood point, Onondaga chert; 4, Meadowood-like point, Kettle Point chert; 5 & 6, Late Woodland triangular points, Onondaga chert.

In addition, there was a Meadowood cache blade of Onondaga chert and 16 broken biface fragments, most of which likely relate to the Archaic/Early Woodland occupations.

Three triangular points can be assigned to the Late Woodland period. A triangular preform of Kettle Point chert from F58a measures 25mm in length, 18mm in width and 6.1mm in thickness. Two finished points are made from Onondaga chert: a specimen from F20 (Figure 10: 5) is 38mm long, 18mm wide and 4.0mm thick; one from F13 (Figure 10: 6) is 28.5mm long, 17.5mm wide and 4.2mm thick.

Other Chipped Stone. The remainder of the chipped stone assemblage is not impressive. In contrast to the bifacial tools, the dominant lithic type among the 1607 flakes from Liahn is Kettle Point chert. The bipolar core reduction technique was significant at Liahn: there are only two block cores but 14 bipolar cores, most are Kettle Point chert.

There is a single unifacial end scraper from F45b. Made of Onondaga chert, it measures 16 by 14 by 4mm. From F58a is a serrated flake of Bayport chert. The flake measures 28 by 20 by 4.5mm. The modified edge is 27mm long and has about 5 to 6 teeth per cm. There are 6 retouched flakes.

Ground Stone. There are two complete ground stone celts and a bit fragment from a third specimen. A percussion flake of red siltstone may derive from a ground stone tool or ornament. There are two abraders.

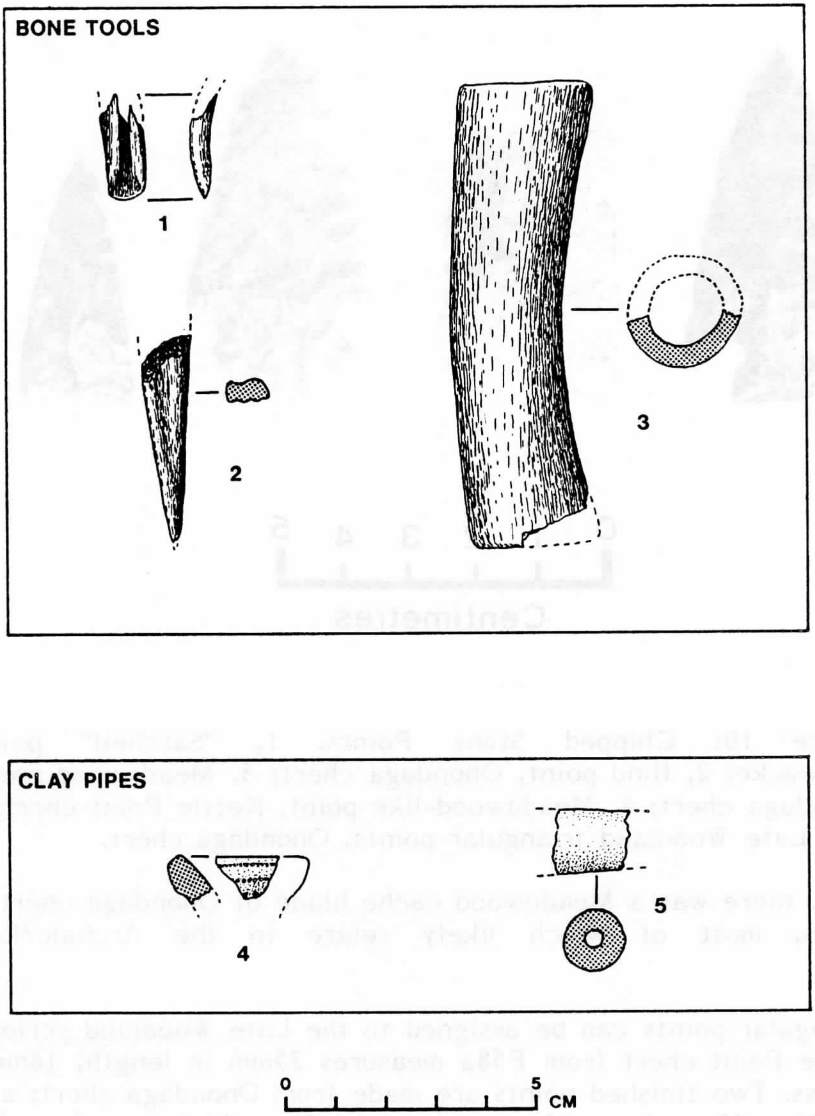


Figure 11: Bone Artifacts and Clay Pipe Sherds.

Bone Artifacts. The bone industry at Liahn is as impoverished as the rest of the assemblage. Only 3 tools are present (Figure 11): a modified beaver incisor, a bone awl and a polished bone tube. The bone tube, which is made from a segment of a mammal longbone, is similar to the ones often found on 17th century Neutral sites.

Shell. There are no shell ornaments at Liahn.

Copper. A portion of a square-shanked copper awl or fishhook was found in one of the pits, but it may date earlier than the ceramic occupation since copper artifacts were associated with the red ochre burials at Liahn II and there are a fair number of intrusive Meadowood points in the Liahn I pits.

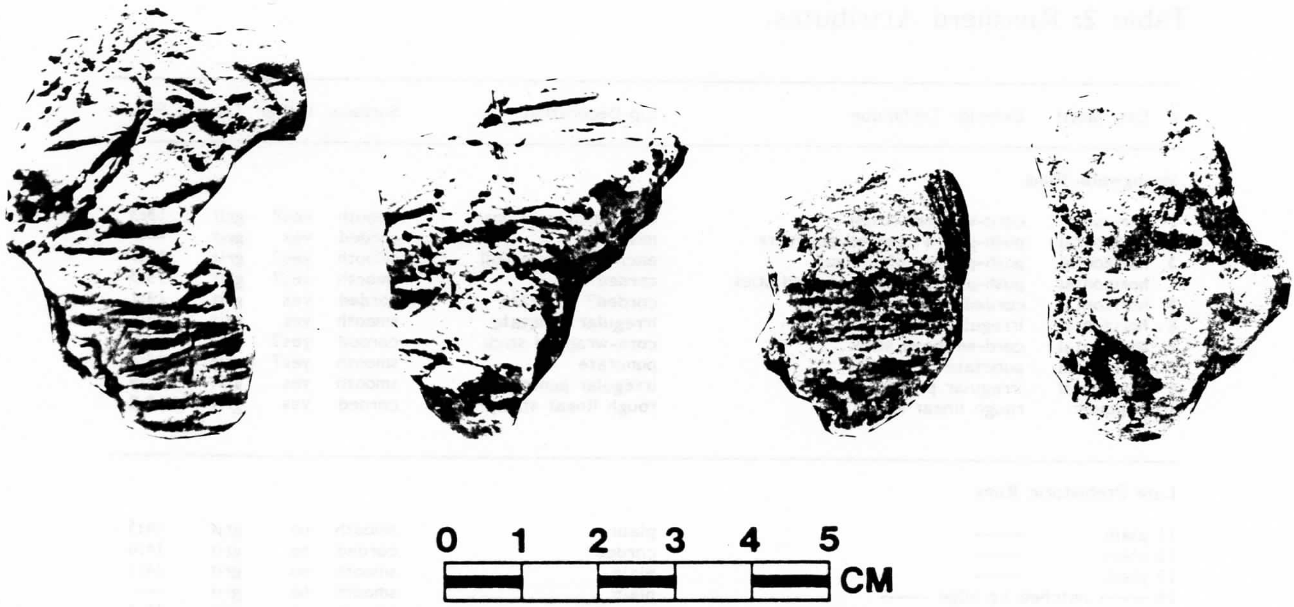


Figure 12: Fired Clay Lumps.

Fired Clay Lumps. Over 17 kilograms of fired clay lumps were excavated; they occur in almost every large feature. Feature 95a alone contains 1.3kg. These lumps are usually small, soft and untempered; they often are rounded as if highly weathered. A few have striated or brushed surfaces suggestive of daub (Figure 12).

Clay Pipes. Only two clay pipe sherds were found in 1977 (Figure 11). One specimen (from F95a) is a segment of a plain, round pipe stem. The other (from F20) is a pipe bowl rimsherd decorated with at least three horizontal rows of punctates.

Springwells Phase Ceramic Vessels. There are rimsherds from a minimum number of ten vessels (Figure 13; Table 2). Of these, nine can be typed as Macomb Linear (Fitting 1965). They are decorated on the collar with horizontal motifs executed with a variety of techniques: cord-wrapped stick; push-pull with a plain linear tool; push-pull with a cord-wrapped stick; punctation with oval, corded or irregular tools. The remaining rim (Figure 13:8) is Vase Tool-impressed (Fitting 1965); it is decorated with several rows of oblique linear stamps. The impressions left by this tool are irregular and rough. Although these impressions are similar to suture stamping, the type of tool which produced them is problematical; one possibility is the end of a wooden slat or splint which has been broken across the grain.

One necksherd is decorated with horizontal trailed lines (Figure 13:10).

Three body surface treatments are associated with the Springwells vessels: cord marking, ribbed paddle and roughening. The roughened surface treatment was first described by Greenman (1937) for the Younge site in Michigan. Roughened exteriors are probably produced by wiping the moistened surface of a "leather hard" pot. The displaced particles of temper are dragged across the vessel surface leaving it with a distinctive striated appearance. Often the roughening is superimposed on one of the other surface treatment techniques.

Table 2: Rimsherd Attributes.

#	Ext. Motif	Exterior Technique	Lip Decoration	Surface	Collar	Temper	Figure
Springwells Rims							
1	horizontal	cord-wrapped stick	oblique impressions	smooth	yes?	grit	13:3
2	horizontal	push-pull w. corded punctate	missing	corded	yes	grit	----
3	horizontal	push-pull w. plain tool	encircling push-pull	smooth	yes?	grit	13:4
4	horizontal	push-pull w. cord-wrapped stick	corded	smooth	yes?	grit	13:5
5	horizontal	corded? punctate	corded? punctate	corded	yes	grit	13:1
6	horizontal	irregular punctate	irregular punctate	smooth	yes	grit	13:7
7	horizontal	cord-wrapped stick	cord-wrapped stick	corded	yes?	grit	13:2
8	horizontal	punctate	punctate	smooth	yes?	grit	13:6
9	horizontal	irregular punctate	irregular punctate	smooth	yes	grit	13:9
10	obliques	rough linear stamp	rough linear stamp	corded	yes	grit	13:8
Late Prehistoric Rims							
11	plain	------	plain	smooth	no	grit	14:5
12	plain	------	corded	corded	no	grit	14:6
13	plain	------	plain	smooth	no	grit	14:1
14	------ notched lip edge ------		plain	smooth	no	grit	----
15	------ notched lip edge ------		plain	smooth	no	grit	14:3
16	------ notched lip edge ------		plain	smooth	no	grit	14:2
17	------ notched applique strip on neck ------		plain	smooth	no	shell	14:4,7
18	------ notched applique strip on neck ------		plain	smooth	no	grit	15

Late Prehistoric Ceramic Vessels. Eight vessels (Figures 14 & 15; Table 2) may pertain to the later ceramic occupation. With one exception these consist of smoothed rims. Typically the lip edge is notched or a notched fillet is applied below the lip. One of the vessels is shell tempered; the others are grit tempered. Vessel bodies are generally cordmarked, although some have evidence of roughening.

Two of these vessels have been graphically "restored". These are described below.

A grit tempered vessel (Figure 15) from F78 has an almost complete rim but the body is represented by only a narrow strip which extends nearly to the base. The neck of the vessel is smoothed and it is decorated with a notched applique strip. There are three strap handles on the pot; their margins are decorated with notching. The body is corded, with fine superimposed roughening. The relative dominance of these two treatments varies from top to bottom on the body: there is little roughening at the shoulder but near the base it almost obliterates the cording. The vessel has the following estimated metric attributes: rim diameter, 28cm; neck diameter, 23cm; shoulder diameter, 26.5cm; maximum body diameter, 30cm; vessel height, 41cm; height from base to point of maximum body diameter, 26.5cm. A sample of 27 bodysherds from the vessel has a mean thickness of 6.4mm.

The second vessel (Figure 14:1) is from F92. This grit temepered vessel is represented by a strip of pottery that extends from the lip to near the base. The rim and neck area is smoothed but the body is corded. At the shoulder, a row of punctates separates the plain neck from the corded body. The vessel has the following estimated metric attributes: rim diameter, 12cm; neck diameter, 11cm; shoulder diameter, 12cm; maximum body diameter, 13cm; vessel height, 16.5cm; height from base to point of maximum body diameter, 10.5cm. A sample of 24 bodysherds from the vessel has a mean thickness of 5.7mm.

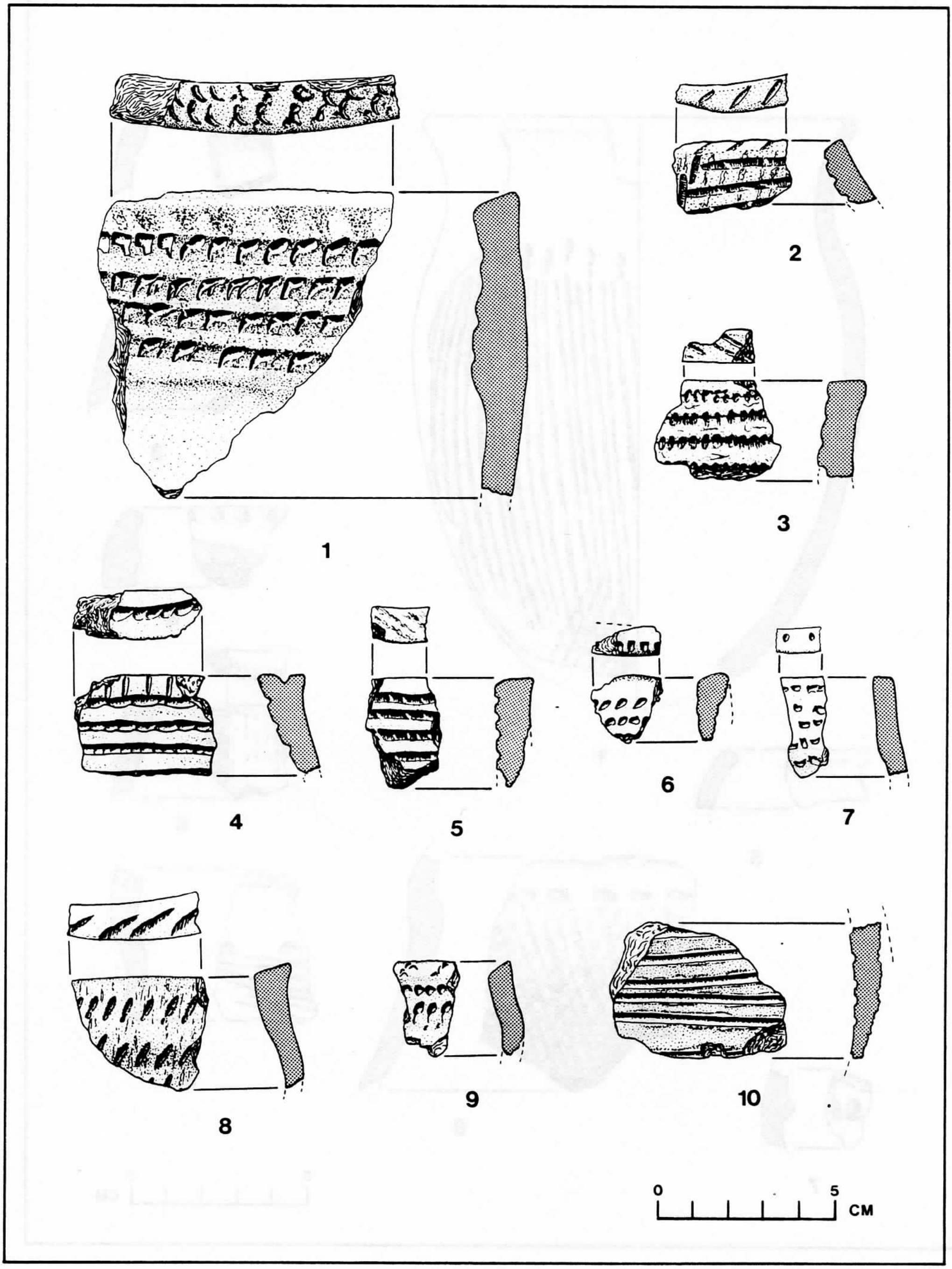


Figure 13: Springwells Ceramics (see Table 2).

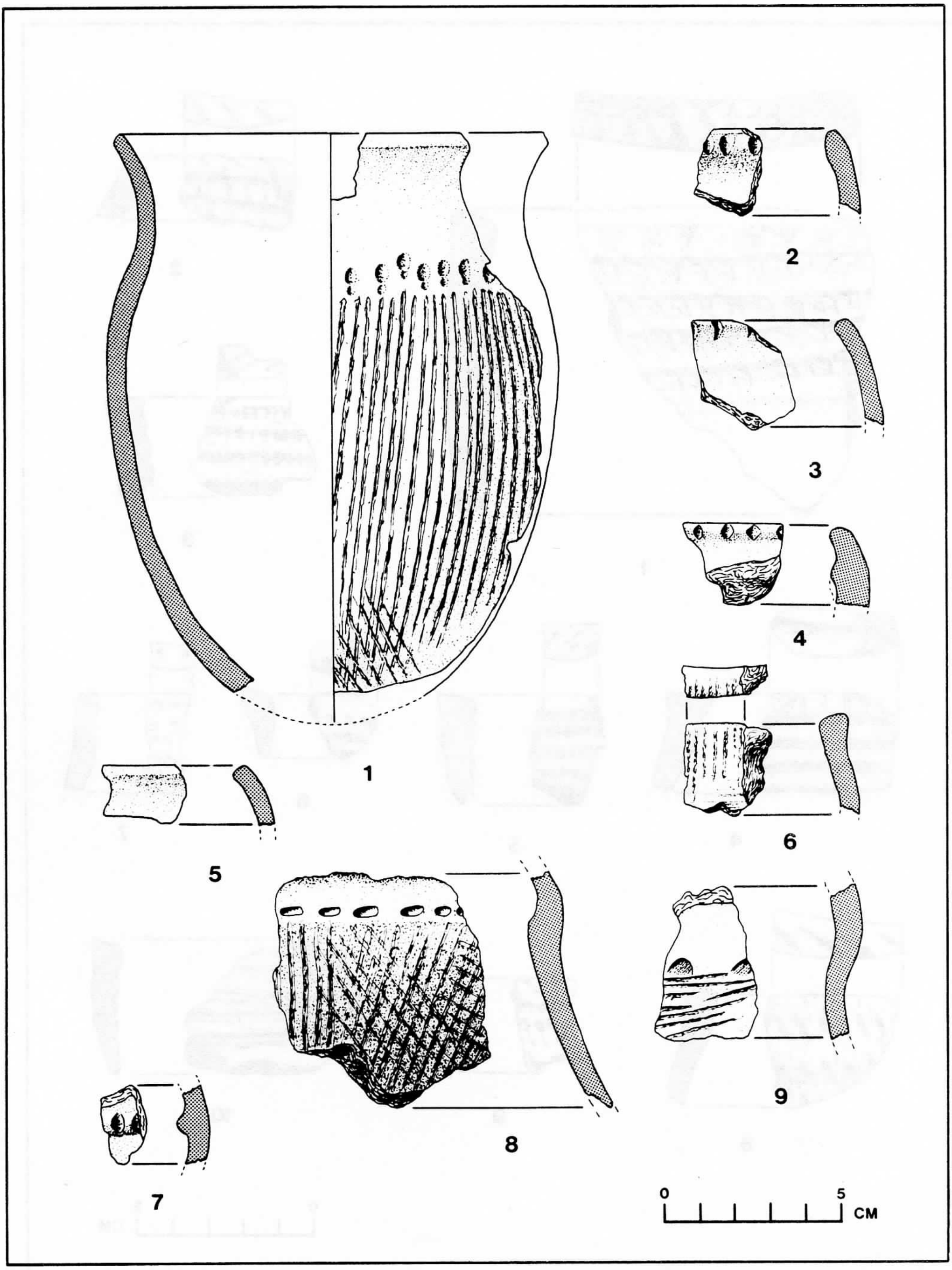


Figure 14: Late Prehistoric Ceramics (see Table 2).

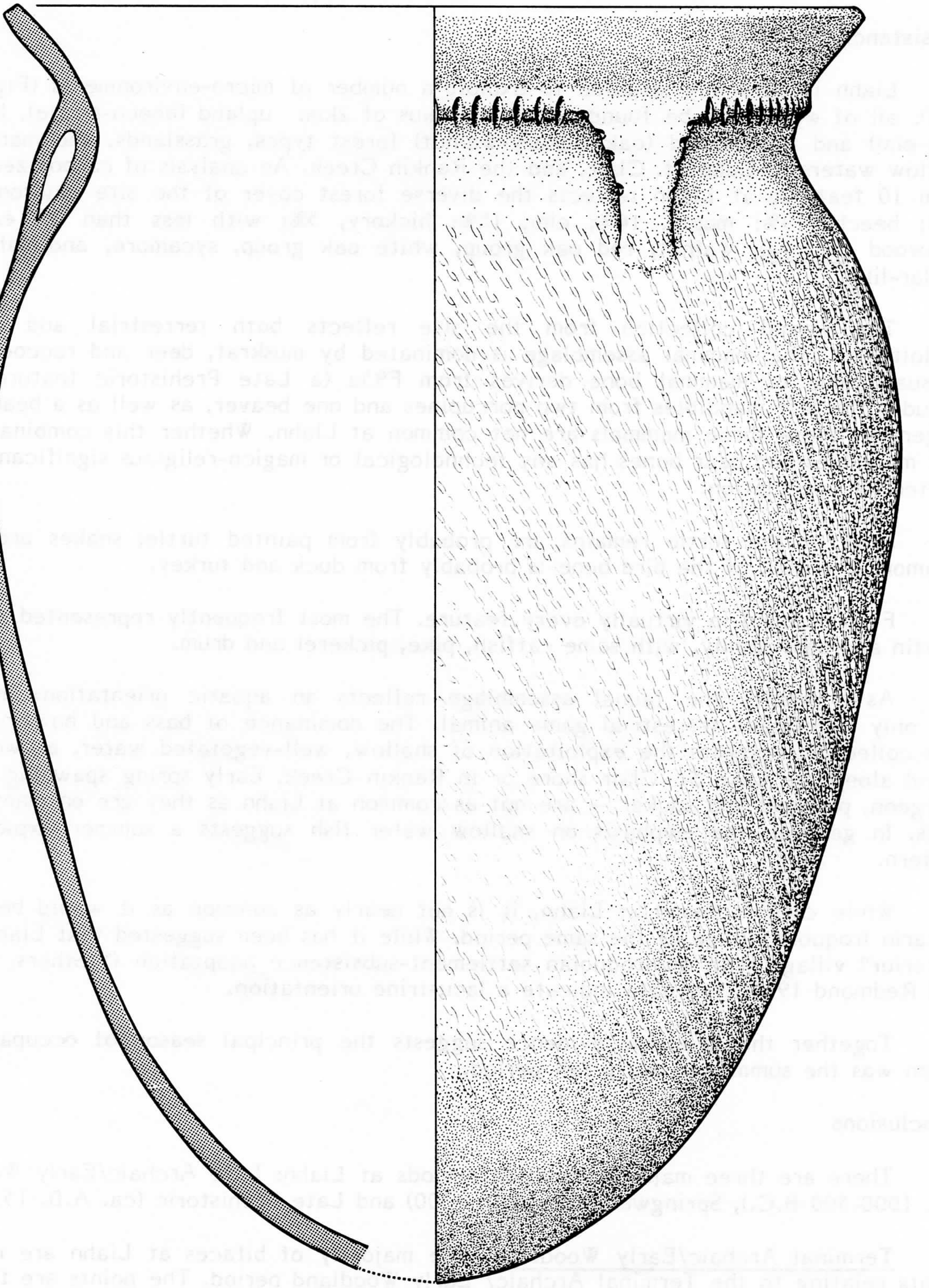


Figure 15: Late Prehistoric Vessel, Feature 78
(see DIC-1007 radiocarbon date).

Subsistence Patterns

Liahn is optimally situated to exploit a number of micro-environments (Figures 1 & 2), all of which can be found within a radius of 2km: upland (beech-maple), lowland (ash-elm) and bottomland (oak-hickory-walnut) forest types, grasslands, the marsh and shallow waters of Lake St. Clair, and the Rankin Creek. An analysis of carbonized wood from 10 features at Liahn reflects the diverse forest cover of the site environs: ash, 40%; beech, 19%; maple, 14%; elm, 10%; hickory, 5%; with less than 5% each of ironwood (Ostrya), walnut, red oak group, white oak group, sycamore, and willow or poplar-like.

The faunal collection from the site reflects both terrestrial and aquatic exploitation. The mammal assemblage is dominated by muskrat, deer and raccoon. An unusual group of mammal bone derives from F95a (a Late Prehistoric feature): this includes the left mandibles from two porcupines and one beaver, as well as a bear bone. In general these three mammals are not common at Liahn. Whether this combination of left mandibles and bear bones has any technological or magico-religious significance is a matter for speculation.

Most of the turtle remains are probably from painted turtle; snakes are fairly common. The bulk of the bird bone is probably from duck and turkey.

Fish is found in virtually every feature. The most frequently represented fish are bowfin and bass family, with some catfish, pike, pickerel and drum.

As a whole, the faunal assemblage reflects an aquatic orientation: muskrat, the only significant terrestrial game animal. The dominance of bass and bowfin in the fish collection suggests the exploitation of shallow, well-vegetated water, as would be found along the Lake St. Clair shore or in Rankin Creek. Early spring spawning fish -- sturgeon, pickerel and sucker -- are not as common at Liahn as they are on many other sites. In general, the emphasis on shallow water fish suggests a summer exploitation pattern.

While corn is found at Liahn, it is not nearly as common as it would be on an Ontario Iroquois village of the same period. While it has been suggested that Liahn is an "interior" village with an Iroquoian settlement-subsistence adaptation (Stothers, Graves and Redmond 1984), the data indicate a lacustrine orientation.

Together the available evidence suggests the principal season of occupation at Liahn was the summer to early fall period.

Conclusions

There are three major occupation periods at Liahn: Late Archaic/Early Woodland (ca. 1000-500 B.C.), Springwells (ca. A.D. 1300) and Late Prehistoric (ca. A.D. 1550).

Terminal Archaic/Early Woodland. The majority of bifaces at Liahn are notched points relating to the Terminal Archaic/ Early Woodland period. The points are formally similar to Hind and Meadowood types. While no features identifiable to this period were discovered, the wide scatter of material implies a habitation site, one presumably associated with the mortuary complex at Liahn II located 150m to the southeast. Liahn II yielded a series of red ocher burials which included Meadowood cache blades of Onondaga chert and copper awls (Williamson 1978, 1980). Neither site has produced Early Woodland ceramic types.

Springwells. About A.D. 1300, the Liahn I site was used as a warm weather base camp by the Springwells phase of the Younge tradition. A 24m by 7m longhouse is associated with this occupation. Characteristic of this component are flat-bottom storage pits, which are typically 1.0 to 1.5m in diameter. Of less certain association, owing to lack of diagnostic artifacts, are the 15-30cm diameter features, some of which may be smudge pits.

While some corn was probably grown on the adjacent sand ridges and deer hunted in the surrounding forest, there is a distinct emphasis on the exploitation of aquatic resources. In particular, bowfin and bass family fish were common; these could easily have been obtained during the summer from the shallow waters of Rankin Creek and Lake St. Clair.

Ceramics from the Springwells component are chiefly Macomb Linear, which features a collared rim with horizontal push-pull or interupted linear decorations. The bodies are cordmaked and sometimes roughened.

Liahn is only one of a series of Springwell sites at the western extension of the outwash sand that follows the course of Rankin Creek. Within 1km of Liahn are the Rickley (AcHo-3) and Burke (AcHo-4) sites, which have also yielded Springwells phase ceramics.

Late Prehistoric. The latest occupation at Liahn likely dates to the 16th century A.D. Ceramics tend to have smoothed rims, usually decorated by lip notching or the application of a notched fillet partway down the rim. One vessel has strap handles, and another is shell tempered. In general the ceramics are similar to those found at the Weiser (Stothers, Graves and Conway 1984) and Libby (Vantomme 1965) sites near Wallaceburg. Futher afield, these ceramics are clearly related to those of the Ft. Meigs phase in the Toledo and Sandusky Bay areas of northwestern Ohio (Stothers n.d.).

Within the excavated area, the Late Prehistoric ceramics tend be found only in the southern one-third of Unit F. There is the suggestion that the Late Prehistoric occupation at Liahn was more spatially restricted than that of Springwells times. Pit contents indicate, however, roughly similar subsistence emphasis; namely, the exploitation of shallow water fish. It is possible that the Late Prehistoric component at Liahn represents a summer fishing outcamp of one of the larger sites (Libby or Weiser) that exist about 10km to the north near Wallaceburg.

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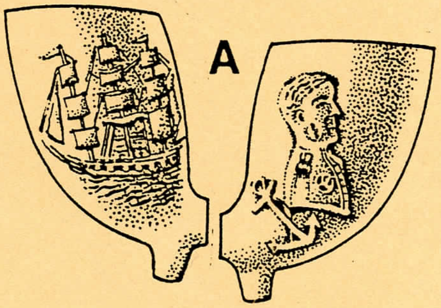
NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

MOULDED DECORATIONS ON CLAY TOBACCO PIPE BOWLS

Thomas Kenyon

A moulded decorated bowl on a 17c English clay pipe was a rarity. It was not until the last half of the 18c that decorated bowl pipes appeared with designs that incorporated Royal or Company arms, Prince of Wales feathers and Masonic emblems. In the 19c there were a great variety of styles. A 1900 catalogue of pipe styles by the Association of Pipemakers of Scotland and Ireland listed about 2000 designs (Walker 1977). Oswald (1975) reduced this to roughly 20 major categories. The main sources of 19c pipes found on Ontario sites were from pipemakers of London, Bristol, Glasgow and Montreal. There was keen competition between the pipemakers - if a design proved popular by one pipe manufacturer it was not uncommon for a rival company to copy it. While the designs on moulded decorated pipe bowls were meant to appeal to different buyer's tastes, it has been suggested this type of pipe bowl had some practical advantages over the plain pipe bowl style. The protruding ribs, flutes, scrolls, nodules, etc. allowed the smoker a better grip, especially if they smoked outdoors, also the larger area created by the design could possibly make the pipe a cooler smoke. The illustrations are a selection from Ontario sites. A,C Mohawk Village: 1800-60; H Glen Airn: 1840-80; B,G John Croker: 1825-45; D,K Hunter's Well: 1820-40; E,O Anthony's Mills: 1820-50; L,N Pat MacDonald: 1835-70; I Dockstater Inn: 1825-45; J Wentworth County Dump: late 19c; F Crinan Creek: 1850-63; M Chatham Area, Dave Crundwell collection.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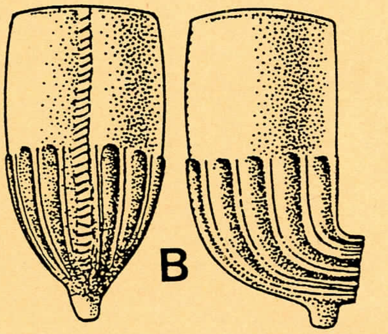
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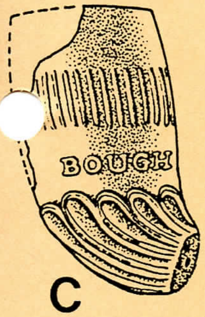

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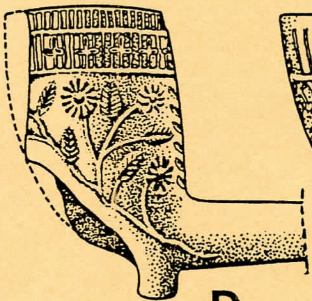
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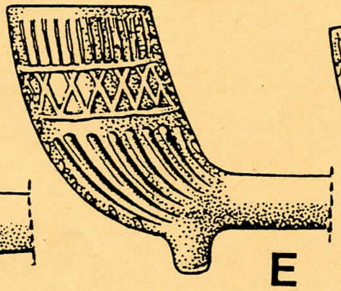
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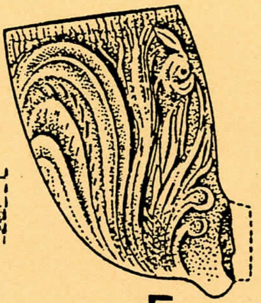
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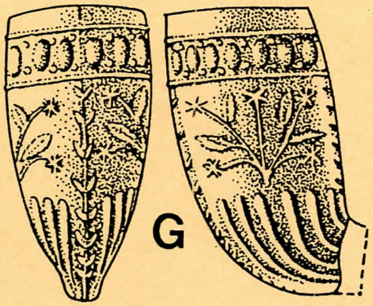
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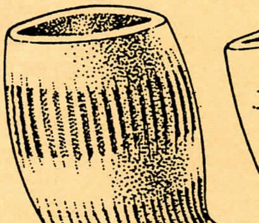
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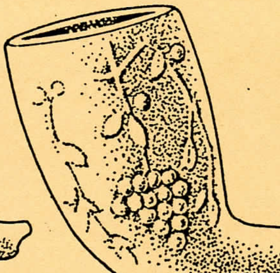
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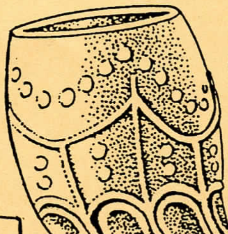
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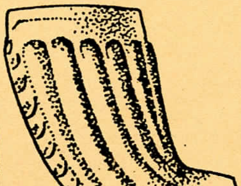
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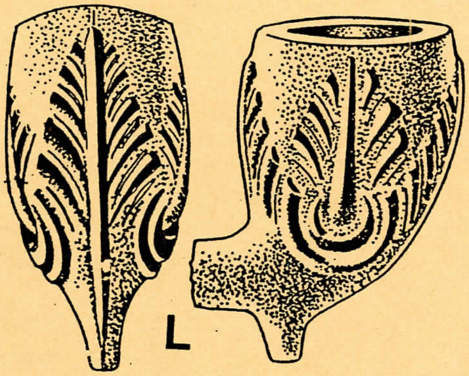
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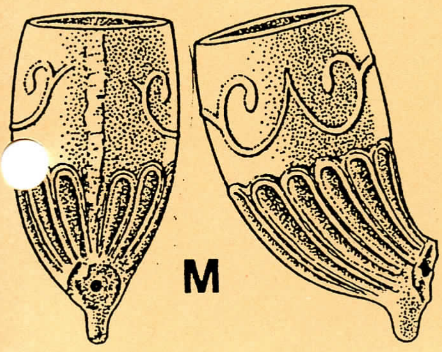
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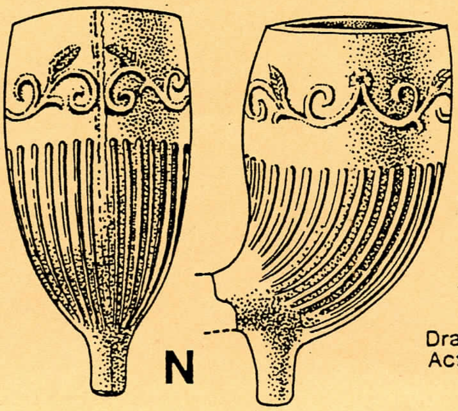
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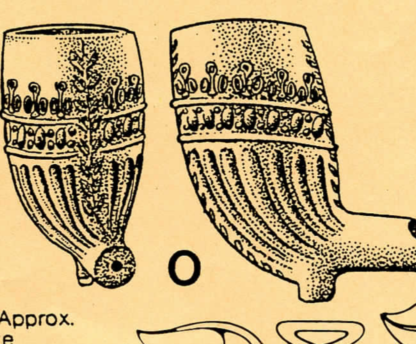
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